**‘A Christmas Carol’ – Key Scenes and Quotations**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quotation** | **What is happening** | **What it means** | **Language device** | **Link with context** |
| **“Stave”** | Name of chapters. | **Musical term for the lines composers use, on which they write notes.** | Metaphor | **Ties in with the idea of a “carol” – connotations of music, festive celebration.** |
| **“a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!”** | Description of Scrooge – introduction to his character.(Stave 1) | **Scrooge is mean, envious of others and greedy.** | List - suggesting continuous activity. | **Victorian concepts of charity and philanthropy** |
| **“solitary as an oyster”** | Description of Scrooge.(Stave 1) | **He is always alone – reclusive, secretive, clammed tight shut, cold, shunning human contact.** | Simile | **Although now seen as luxury items, Oysters were once the food of the poor. The meaning links with ideas of social responsibility.**  |
| **“heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge”** | Description of Scrooge.(Stave 1) | **He never shows any emotion or reaction to events.** | Metaphor | **Ideas of social responsibility.** |
| **“ ‘Bah!’ said Scrooge. ‘Humbug!’ ”** | Comment to his nephew. (Stave 1) | **He considers Christmas to be a fraud, a waste of time and money.** | Exclamation, emotive | **Social responsibility. Use of humour/ catchphrase.** |
| **“Are there no prisons… workhouses?”** | Scrooge speaks to the charity collectors. (Stave 1) | **Scrooge thinks these are the right places for the poor.** | Emotive language.Repetition (same phrase repeated to Scrooge by Ghost of Christmas Present) | **Notions of “deserving” and “undeserving” poor; social responsibility.** |
| **“If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population.”** | Scrooge speaks to the charity collectors and refuses to give them money (Stave 1)  | **Scrooge echoes the Malthusian belief that population will always outweigh the supply of food.**  | Emotive language. Dialogue.  | **Notions of “deserving” and “undeserving” poor; social responsibility.** |
| **“Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern”** | Scrooge dines alone (Stave 1)  | **He is presented as lonely and sad.** | Emotive language | **Social responsibility. Christmas as a time of sociability – contrast with Cratchits later in the book.** |
| **‘”I made it link by link and yard by yard.’’**  | Marley’s ghost is explaining to Scrooge about the chain he wears. (Stave 1)  | **Marley admits full responsibility for his sins.**  | Metaphor. Repetition.  | **Social responsibility. Sins and religion.**  |
| **“There’s more of gravy than of grave about you”** | The ghost of Jacob Marley appears to Scrooge. (Stave 1) | **Scrooge thinks the apparition is purely imaginary, due to indigestion.** | Play on words, pun. | **Disbelief in spirits, supernatural.****Food and society.** |
| **“like a child, yet…like an old man”** | Description of the Ghost of Christmas Past. (Stave 2) | **The ghost has the characteristics of youth and old age.** | Oxymoron, paradox. | **Supernatural** |
| **“strong hand” “mildly” “gentle”,** | Descriptions of the Ghost of Christmas Past. (Stave 2) | **The ghost is powerful, but also soft, emotional.** | Oxymoron, paradox. | **Contrasts in society.****Supernatural.** |
| **‘bright as a ballroom’**  | Description of Fezziwig’s warehouse (Stave 2)  | **The workhouse is warm and comforting, in contrast to Scrooge’s place of work.**  | Simile  | **Social responsibility.**  |
| **‘Another idol has displaced me… a golden one’**  | Belle’s dialogue to Scrooge before she leaves him (Stave 2) | **Scrooge has become so obsessed with greed and wealth, Belle no longer feels part of his life.** | Religious reference.  | **Morality. Religion.**  |
| **“a jolly Giant”**  | Description of the Ghost of Christmas Present. (Stave 2)  | **He is huge and exuberant.** | Alliteration | **Supernatural. Personification of Christmas.** |
| **“genial”, “sparkling”, “cheery”** | Description of the Ghost of Christmas Present. (Stave 3) | **The ghost is merry, happy.** | Emotive language. Adjectives.  | **Personification of the festive spirit.** |
| **‘brave in ribbons’**  | A description of Mrs. Cratchit and her daughter. (Stave 3)  | **Even though the Cratchit family have little money, they still make an effort to celebrate Christmas Day.**  | Emotive language. | **Spirt of Christmas. Poverty.**  |
| **‘Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish’**  | Description of Ignorance and Want (Stave 3)  | **The children are extremely poor and destitute, symbolising the reality of many working class children.**  | Allegory. Symbolism. Emotive Language.  | **Poverty in Victorian England.**  |
| **“it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery”** | Description of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. (Stave 4) | **The ghost is dark, sinister, threatening.** | Emotive, alliteration. | **Supernatural.****Personification of death.** |
| **“silent”, “ghostly”, “spectral”** | Description of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. (Stave 4) | **The ghost does not speak; it is frightening, sinister.** | Emotive language.  | **Supernatural.****Personification of death.** |
| **‘Unwatched, unwept, uncared for’**  | Description of the body the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to see. (Stave 4)  | **Scrooge sees the consequences of living his lonely and isolated life.**  | Emotive language. List.  | **Morality. Family.**  |
| **“I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel!”** | Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning. (Stave 5) | **He is reborn. He feels elated and delighted.** | Simile | **Religion. Salvation, reformation.** |
| **‘”Hallo! Whoop! Hallo here!’”**  | Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning. (Stave 5) | **He feels elated and delighted.**  | Contrast – it contrasts with his earlier exclamation of ‘Bah! Humbug!’  | **Scrooge’s redemption/ reformation is complete.** |
| **‘’I’ll raise your salary and endeavour to assist your struggling family.’”** | Scrooge offers to help Bob Cratchit. (Stave 5)  | **Scrooge’s attitude towards the poor has changed.**  | Contrasting dialogue. Emotive language.  | **Scrooge is endeavouring to become a better employer – just like Fezziwig.**  |
| **“Scrooge was better than his word”** | How Scrooge has changed at the end. (Stave 5) | **He is even better than he promised to be – he is truly a reformed character.** | Authorial intrusion, telling the reader what to think. | **Social change, the ability to reform.** |
| **“God bless Us, Every One!”** | Tiny Tim speaks – final words of the story. (Stave 5)  | **Christmas is a time for good fortune and good cheer – goodwill to all.** | Emotive, emphasis (use of capitals) | **Religion, salvation, social inclusion.** |